

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
318 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3361
FAX: (202) 225-3462



FLAGSTAFF OFFICE:
405 N. BEAVER ST., SUITE 6
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001
(928) 286-5338
FAX: (928) 779-6310

ORO VALLEY OFFICE:
200 W. MAGEE RD., SUITE 140
ORO VALLEY, AZ 85704
(520) 316-0839

TOM O'HALLERAN
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

July 29, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer,

Thank you for your continued leadership in the 117th Congress. I write to urge Congress to stay in Washington to pass the Honoring our PACT Act, critical border funding, legislation to fund the government, policing bills, and other significant priorities for the American people. While Congress has passed important legislation in recent months, including the CHIPS and Science Act, the American people deserve much more. People are struggling with rising prices for gas and groceries. Housing costs continue to rise while our neighborhoods are becoming less safe. And fentanyl and other illegal contraband continues to flow across our border as the Administration grasps with the increasing flow of migrants seeking asylum. It is imperative that we remain in session and continue to work on passing legislation to address the issues that Americans are feeling.

In order to tackle the problems facing Arizonans, particularly those in rural and tribal communities, we must have an ambitious agenda for the remainder of the 117th Congress. This includes meaningful legislation to reduce inflation and gas prices, improve border security, reduce prescription drug prices, and improve the ethical obligations for members of Congress.

Even worse, our constituents have just watched as the United States Senate reneged on a promise made to America's veterans by filibustering the Honoring our PACT Act, the exact same legislation that passed the House and Senate overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis. We must remain in Washington and continue to negotiate to ensure that this critical legislation finally is passed into law.

Further, to date, the House of Representatives has only passed six of its 12 annual appropriations bills. Importantly, we have yet to act on the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill and the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations (CJS) bill. The Homeland Security package makes critical investments in border security while providing for humanitarian needs of migrants. This includes a \$15.74 billion for Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), an \$893.8 million increase above the FY 2022 enacted level. This will allow for more officers, technicians, and support staff

to be hired, as well as the deployment of improved technologies to stem the flow of illicit fentanyl that continues to flow across the border.

The CJS bill also is critical for the American people who are seeing a surge in crime. The package includes \$716.9 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne-JAG) and \$277.4 million for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring grants. These both represent increases from the FY 2022 enacted level. The bill also makes critical investments in Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs. The legislation funds these programs at \$642 million, a \$67 million increase over FY 2022, and will improve programs intended to reduce domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by strengthening services to victims and holding offenders accountable.

Finally, it has been reported that, in September, Congress will consider legislation to prevent member of Congress and their spouses from trading stocks while in office. This is something I strongly support, but we cannot allow partisan politics to delay this coming to the floor. I have also introduced an Ethics Package that should be considered in concert with this legislation.

Two bills that must be considered is H.R. 7137, the *Clean Legislating and Ethical Accountability Now (CLEAN) Act* and the *Closing Loopholes, Ending Anonymous Revolving (CLEAR) Doors Act*. The *CLEAN Act* would protect and make permanent the independent Office of Congressional Ethics. The *CLEAR Doors Act* would close lobbying disclosure loopholes by requiring anyone who used to work for a federal agency to disclose any contact with their former agency employer within 48 hours.

The American people are asking for leadership from their elected officials during a challenging period in our nation's history. Now is *not* the time for Congress to step away from Washington for six weeks for an August recess. I look forward to continuing to work with you on these critical issues.

Sincerely,



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress